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PN 1135

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS**

Project Proposal Memorandum

**TO : Projects Review Committee,  
Geographic Area**

**Date: 12 March 1953**

25X1A

**FROM: Chief, Geography Division**

1. Subject of Proposed Project: Vozrozhdeniya Island, Aral Sea

2. Statement of Project: To produce a geographical study of the island of Vozrozhdeniya which might indicate its assets as a Biological Warfare test area.

Scope: The study will consist of a survey of both the physical and cultural components pertinent to the use of the island as a BW test area.

Outline: Attached

3. Need for Project: Requested by OSI, in memorandum of 3 March 1953.

4. Responsible Branch: Responsible Analyst:

USSR

Unassigned

6. Estimated Man-Hours Required to Complete Project:

Producing Division: 350

Cooperating ORR Divisions:       

Total : 450

D/GC 100

7. Graphics or Maps: 1 orientation map  
1 map of island and surrounding sea area  
photomaps if available

8. Cooperation Desired from Other CIA Offices and other Agencies:

The usual services

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DOCUMENT NO. 1  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S ©

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: 14 Sept 79

REVIEWER: 006514

MAR 23 1953

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79-01009A000400010001-6

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9. Probable Completion Date: 15 May 1953
10. Probable Form of Final Publication:

CIA/RR-GR *24*

25X1A

  
Acting Chief, D/CG

Approved by D/CG Project Review  
Committee, Geographic Area

Date: 12 March 1953

Concurrence:

25X1A

  
AD/RR

Date: 23 Mar '53

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## VOZROZHDENIYA ISLAND

### I. Physical features

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Terrain</p> <p>B. Vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Natural</li><li>2. Cultivated crops</li></ul> <p>C. Meteorological conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Temperature</li><li>2. Precipitation</li><li>3. Winds</li><li>4. Cloud conditions</li></ul> | <p>D. Aspects of the Aral Sea<br/>in the vicinity of the<br/>Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Water depths</li><li>2. Prevailing currents</li><li>3. Offshore obstructions</li><li>4. Salinity</li><li>5. Flora and fauna</li></ul> |
|--|--|

### II. Cultural features

- A. Population
- 1. Density
  - 2. Settlements
  - 3. Ethnic Composition
- B. Installations
- 1. Usual
    - a. economic
    - b. civil
  - 2. Special
    - a. military
    - b. scientific
- C. Communications
- 1. Local transportation facilities and services
  - 2. Communication facilities with the mainland

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Research and Reports Date: March 3, 1953  
FROM : Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Request for Geographical Survey of VOZROZHDENIYA ISLAND, ARAL SEA, USSR.

25X1A

1. VOZROZHDENIYA ISLAND, ARAL SEA, has long been reported as a site for Soviet field testing of BW agents and weapons. Its geographic location affords ideal conditions for such field trials. A preliminary discussion with members of the Geography Division of ORR [REDACTED] has indicated that they would be willing to undertake a geographical survey of the island within the following scope:

- a. Topography.
- b. Meteorological conditions.
- c. Transportation facilities and services.
- d. Installations and physical features.
- e. Transportation facilities and services.
- f. Port conditions.
- g. Physical aspects of the Aral Sea area in the vicinity of the Island.
- h. Communication facilities with the mainland.

2. A member of Biology Division, SI, will be available to review the material pertinent to the study and assist in selecting that information which would be helpful in evaluating the island as a BW test area.

H. MARSHALL CHADWELL  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

OSI/ OSI/JFS:tcc (26 February 1953)

Distribution:

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